



Dental exam: Pauline Nooyen checks Babe's teeth as her husband, Clayton, holds him at their farm in

Rose Lawn. The red Holstein was a junior grand champion at the Shawano County Fair.

Space, pace make this the place

By Gary Dodge

Press-Gazette

ROSE LAWN — Teens in this Shawano County community see how far they can drive their all-terrain vehicles in the snow without getting stuck.

In the hot summer months, they gather at a neighbor's swimming pool — the only one in Rose Lawn — to cool off.

Press-Gazette photos by Joan Guthridge

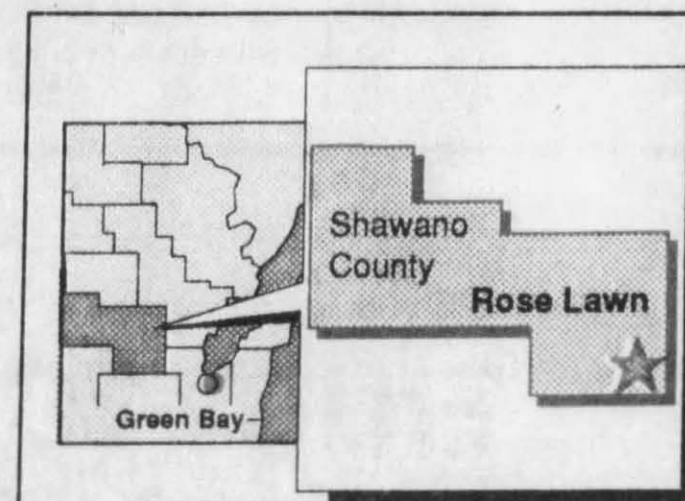
But their creativity for finding fun doesn't stop there.

They duck hunt, swap video movies and play basketball, says Brad Kropp, 15, Route 2, Pulaski, whose family owns the pool. They also fish and prepare vegetables, livestock and crafts for the Shawano County Fair each Labor Day weekend.

"There's more room to roam," says Kropp, a Pulaski High School sophomore. "You can ride your four-wheeler but you can't do that in town."

Two 4-H clubs serve youths in this Shawano County community at Wisconsin 156 and County C in the town of Maple Grove.

Adults like the slow-paced country life-



The Rose Lawn file

- **Population:** "At least 50 people will say they're from Rose Lawn," resident Pauline Nooyen says.
- **Education:** Most students attend the Pulaski School District.
- **Main roads:** Wisconsin 156 and Shawano County C.
- **Religion:** Residents attend churches in surrounding communities, including Hofa Park, Isaar, Pulaski and Seymour.

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— Brad Kropp

style, but also stay busy with work and hobbies.

Brad's mother, Doris Kropp spends plenty of time growing tomatoes, beans, corn, peas, squash, cabbage, cauliflower and peppers in her tiny greenhouse. She sells her wares at the Farmers Market in Green Bay.

Kropp's family, which moved to Rose

Lawn 12 years ago from Isaar, is among a growing number of younger families moving to the area, says Virginia Elsen, 402 E. Wisconsin St., Seymour, who was born and raised in Rose Lawn.

"Nearly everyone there is new except for two families," she says.

The newer families retain the close-knit country attitude. Their newest tradition: A multi-family rummage sale each spring.

They also help each other in time of need.

"Last spring people helped a man with his planting and harvesting," says Pauline Nooyen, 32, Route 2, Pulaski.

The family has been awakened many times from people with car trouble, says her husband Clayton Nooyen, 35.

The couple moved to Rose Lawn from the Pulcifer-Advance area eight years ago to farm.

When Elsen was young she learned the community got its name from wild roses that grew there.

When she lived there, Rose Lawn had Millie and the late John Lepak's tavern at Wisconsin 156 and County C, that sported a sign, "It's a lot nicer inside." The tavern was torn down four years ago to widen Wisconsin 156.

Rose Lawn also had Irish's general store, a clothing and hardware store, cheese factory, a trucking firm and post office, Elsen says.

People would gather in an open field to watch movies that local businesses sponsored. Residents also supported baseball and softball teams.

"It was busy years back . . ." Elsen says.



Kropp's crops: Doris Kropp transplants jalapeno peppers in the greenhouse behind her Rose

Lawn home. She sells a variety of vegetables at the Farmers Market in Green Bay.

■ Next week: Spruce in Oconto County